PITTA

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SPECIAL ISSUE
EAGLENEST

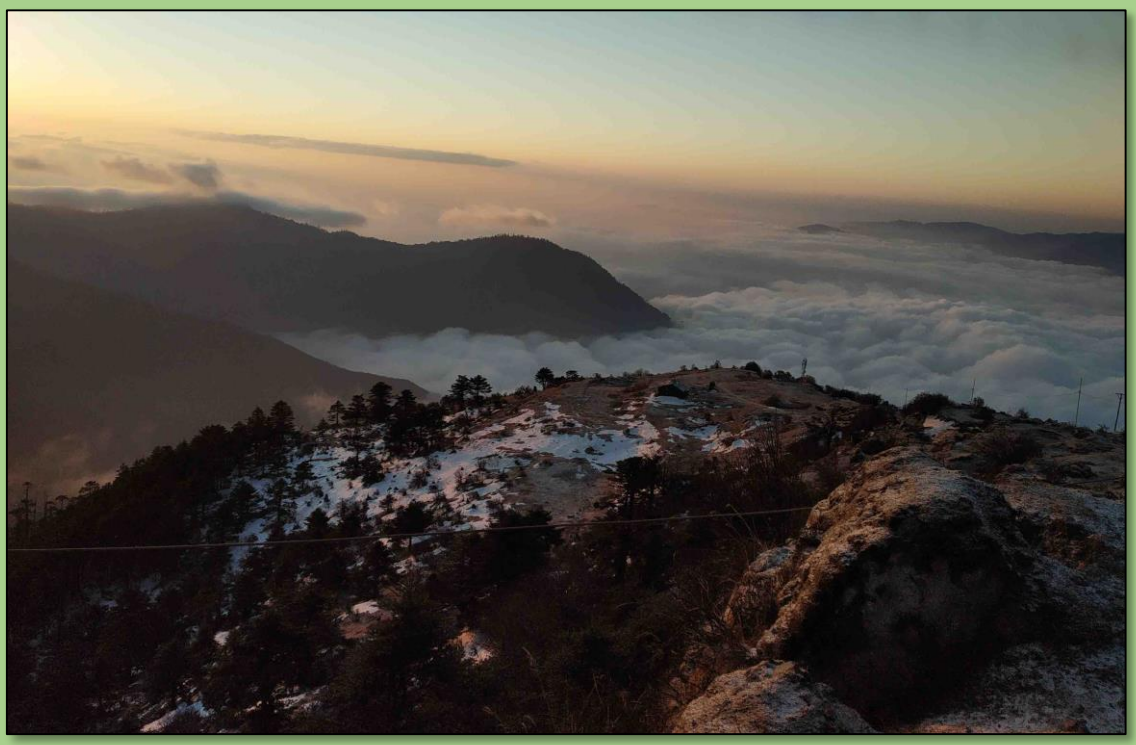
Editor's note

Some of our members had been to Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary during February-March 2021, for a ten-day birdwatching trip. In this Special Issue of the Pitta, we bring you a report on that trip, along with a number of colourful photographs. We hope you will find this Special Issue interesting.

BIRDING IN BUGUN'S BACKYARD

Report: Eaglenest WLS, Arunachal Pradesh, February 25-March 07, 2021

Umesh Mani



A view at Sela Pass (Photo: Umesh Mani)

In Feb-March 2021, three of us – Abhishek (a birder friend from Chennai), Vikram and I – decided to make a trip to Eaglenest WLS in Arunachal Pradesh. It was a long-planned trip that had not materialized earlier for various reasons, and we were keen to somehow make it work this time around.

Day-1: Feb 25, 2021: Deepor Beel & Garbhanga Reserve Forest

Some last-minute rescheduling of flights by SpiceJet meant that I ended up reaching Bagdogra one day earlier than the others. I decided to utilize the evening by visiting Deepor Beel and Garbhanga Reserve Forest for a few hours, hoping to see some interesting species.

The very first sight that met my eyes was a flock of about ten Grey-headed Lapwings, followed in quick succession by 8-10 Glossy Ibises and a Common Stonechat, a few Purple Herons, Asian Openbills, and White, Grey and Citrine Wagtails.

Grey-headed Lapwing (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A huge flock of around 200 Fulvous Whistling-ducks took wing when a Black-eared Kite decided to fly around the lake.

The highlight of the evening was the sighting of a Striated Grassbird that appeared and graced the nearby bushes for a few minutes, allowing me to observe it well and take a few photographs.

Striated Grassbird (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Since there wasn't much action here, I then moved to Garbhanga and was welcomed by a loud Blue-throated Barbet. A Common Iora put in an appearance, as did a Red-vented Bulbul of the *bengalensis* subspecies, the commoner one in that region.

Red-vented Bulbul (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A pair of Crimson Sunbirds gave a fleeting glimpse, and a Black-hooded Oriole uttered a few fluty calls nearby. A Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker entertained for a while, close enough for me to see, for the first time, how exactly it gripped the thin branches!

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (Photo: Umesh Mani)

I watched a Scarlet Minivet grab and consume a caterpillar with great relish. An Orange-bellied Leafbird (female) was also seen.

Scarlet Minivet (Photo: Umesh Mani)

By now it was getting dark, and I headed back to the lodge to try and get some decent sleep and await the arrival of the others in the morning.

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Day-2: Feb 26, 2021: Garbhanga RF, Guwahati Garbage Dump, Nameri

After picking up Vikram and Abhishek, we drove straight to Garbhanga RF for some morning birding. The day started with a brief sighting of the Yellow-vented Warbler right at the gate which, unfortunately, none of us could capture. Yellow-vented and Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers, and Greenish and Blyth's Leaf Warblers, also gave brief glimpses before vanishing into the canopy.

Greenish Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Dark-necked Tailorbird (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Crimson Sunbird (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Great Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

It was a gloomy, cloudy day – demoralising, as we could barely see anything inside the trees. The first of the lifers cheered us up a little – the Dark-necked Tailorbird, which gave us a little time to observe it – followed by some other interesting species like Crimson and Black-throated Sunbirds, Great Tit, Pin-striped Tit Babbler, Large Woodshrike – and a pair of Forktails, probably Black-backed, seen only by the guide. We spent a half hour waiting to see if they showed up again, but to no avail. A juvenile Black-hooded Oriole was also around.

Black-hooded Oriole juvenile (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The Eurasian Crag Martin, seen in flight – naturally! – was another important sighting.

Eurasian Crag Martin (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Blue-throated Barbet (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (Photo: Umesh Mani)

There were good views of some of the usual suspects – Blue-throated Barbet, Green Imperial and Yellow-footed Green Pigeons, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo and Indian White-eye. Calls were heard of the Red Junglefowl – we rued the fact that we did not actually get to see it – Great Barbet and Common Hawk Cuckoo. A Dollarbird seated on a high-tension wire led us a merry dance as we tried to get a closer look, and a Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush teased us from the trees.

Yellow-footed Green Pigeon (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Dollarbird (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Golden-fronted Leafbird (Photo: Umesh Mani)

By now, we were beginning to feel hungry. It was also getting on for 8:00AM, so we decided to move to our next location, with breakfast on the way.

The next site was not the 'usual' type of birding location – we were headed to the Guwahati Municipal Garbage Dumpyard. Barring a little grassy area and a small stream nearby, there is none of the typical birding habitat here. However, it forms an important part of the itinerary for any birder venturing this side – because the dumpyard plays home to nearly 90% of the world's population of the Greater Adjutant Stork.

Guwahati Garbage Dump (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Of course, it does require a strong stomach – or a weak sense of smell! – to be able to stay there for any significant time and observe the Adjutants. It is also sobering to see the conditions under which some people have to work. But the up-close views of these 'ugly yet beautiful' birds, along with some other species like the Lesser Adjutant (seen occasionally here), Black-eared Kite and others, are good compensation.

Black-eared Kite (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Cattle Egret (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Greater Adjutant (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We watched these birds for about half an hour – one particular individual seemed to be practicing some yoga positions! – before moving towards the grassy area. We were fortunate to see a Rosy Pipit there, and a pair of Striated Grassbirds engaging in a courtship display. It was so much fun to watch, but sadly, impossible to capture.

A pair of Asian Pied Starlings argued vociferously – one seemed to be complaining about something.

Asian Pied Starling (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We realized that we had better get a move on – we needed to reach Nameri that evening, and hopefully also get in a couple of hours of birding before dark.

The Darter Tree (Photo: Umesh Mani)

En route, on the highway, the first thing we saw was what we dubbed the Darter Tree – there were at least 7 of them there! Traffic was heavy, so we carefully stepped out to take a few quick photographs before moving ahead. In a vacant grassy patch, we saw a lone Lesser Adjutant before coming upon another tree – bang in the middle of the median in the highway! – where we found the Lesser Adjutant actually nesting.

Lesser Adjutant (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The Adjutant is an integral part of popular culture and folklore here, as evidenced by statues and pictures we kept seeing every now and then.

Statue of Greater Adjutant outside a restaurant
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Reaching Nameri around 3:00PM, we were shocked to find that the Bhorelli Eco Camp, where we were to stay, had been temporarily shut down, and we had to make alternate arrangements. It was also disappointing, because the resort is well located, close to the forest, and offers good birding in its own campus. Anyway, there was no option, so we quickly fixed up accommodation in a nearby town, then decided to take a walk in the forest for an hour or two, even though it was very gloomy and we were not particularly hopeful.

Jungle Myna (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Taiga Flycatcher (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Red-breasted Parakeet (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

However, a Taiga Flycatcher and a bunch of ebullient Red-breasted Parakeets cheered us up a little, and we moved further.

Hoary-bellied Squirrel (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Hoary-bellied Squirrel gave a nice change from the birds.

Indo-chinese Roller (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We came upon a Roller, a little distance away in a field, that looked different from the ones we were used to – it was darker, more purple than blue – and we realized that it was the Indochinese (aka Black-billed) Roller – another lifer! It was, unfortunately, too far to get decent photos. The Indochinese Roller, *C. affinis*, earlier considered a sub-species of the Indian Roller, has been recently separated into a full species.

Asian Barred Owlet (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Blossom-headed Parakeet (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Blue-bearded Bee-eater (Photo: Umesh Mani)

An Asian Barred Owlet gave some nice views, while the Rose-ringed and Blossom-headed Parakeets, Blue-bearded Bee-eater, Puff-throated Babbler and Jacobin Cuckoo gave fleeting glimpses.

By now, it was getting darker, and we wound up for the day. Tomorrow morning was to be our only full session at Nameri, and we prayed that the weather would improve!

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Day-3: Feb 27, 2021: Nameri, en route Lama Camp

We reached the jetty bright and early for our boat ride across the river. While waiting, we ticked off a few common species – Grey Bushchat, Long-tailed Shrike, Rose-ringed Parakeet and a sleepy Spotted Owlet in a tree hollow. A Common Kestrel gave us a flypast, as did a few Great Cormorants.

Then we boarded the boats and started off. The first sighting on the water was an interesting one – Great Crested Grebe – followed by one of the highlights of Nameri, the Wreathed Hornbill! We saw a pair flying across the water – which was exactly how I had seen them on my last trip too.

Wreathed Hornbill (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

On the other side, we started walking into the forest, and were immediately assaulted by a horde of mosquitoes. There was also the ever-present threat of leeches which, while generally harmless, can be quite a distraction. We came upon a tree that hosted some 20+ Vernal Hanging Parrots, along with a Maroon Oriole female, a few Bulbuls, Chestnut-tailed Starlings and Long-tailed Minivets. A Striated Heron on the rocks engaged us for a while, and a Great Indian Hornbill paid a brief visit.

Striated Heron (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We saw an interesting dustbin made of bamboo along the way.

Bamboo dustbin (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Then we came to the small pond where the main target species of Nameri was sometimes seen – the White-winged Wood Duck. An extremely shy and jittery species by nature, it tends to take off and disappear at the slightest noise or movement – so we had to be very careful to be absolutely quiet. In spite of taking all care, the duck saw us before we could see it, and shot off to a spot further down the patch of water.

Our guide told us that we would have to give the duck some time, to allow it to settle down, before venturing any closer. So we started looking around where we stood, and spotted a Red-whiskered Bulbul, a Golden-fronted Leafbird and, on the edge of the water, an unexpected Sambhar. A River Tern and a Ruddy Shelduck flew over.

Sambhar (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We then slowly inched forward, and were thrilled to see that there was a pair of ducks fairly close by and in the open. Not believing our luck, I took a few photographs, only to realise that they were, in fact, Common Teals!

Disappointed, we started looking ahead, and the guide almost immediately found a White-winged Wood Duck at the far end of the water. It was a juvenile bird, which possibly explains the fact that it hung around foraging on the water long enough for us to take a good number of photographs. Given the poor light, the distance and the shadows thrown by the canopy, the photos were nothing better than record shots, but we had to be satisfied with that.

White-winged Wood Duck juvenile (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

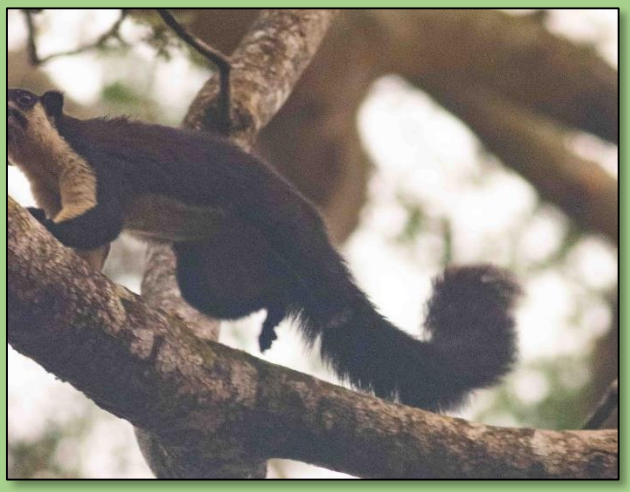
Barking Deer & White-winged Wood Duck juvenile
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Barking Deer appeared out of the trees near the duck and distracted us for a while before we pulled our attention back to the duck.

After nearly half an hour with the duck, we decided to move back and look for other birds. We were immediately rewarded with the sighting of a Scaly Thrush, though we could not get any decent photographs.

White-throated & Common Kingfishers (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A fallen tree in the river yielded the White-throated and Common Kingfishers, an Indian Thick-knee was seen among the rocks, and a good-sized flock of Green Imperial Pigeons put in an appearance.



Bhutan Giant Flying Squirrel (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Giant Squirrel scurried around in the trees – on checking the photo later, I was thrilled to find that it was the Bhutan Giant Flying Squirrel!

Large Woodshrike (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A few more Long-tailed Minivets, a Large Woodshrike and a Greater Flameback were seen, and we flushed a Red Junglefowl female.

Greater Flameback (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Red Junglefowl female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

An Indian Nuthatch, Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon, Spangled Drongo and Blue-throated Barbet were other interesting sightings, three of them on the same tree. There was also a fleeting glimpse of a Daurian Redstart which, sadly, none of us could photograph.

A flock of Red-breasted Parakeets came to give us a send-off as we started walking back to the boats. Sand Martins were aplenty, and a Himalayan Swiftlet was identified from photos later!

Sand Martin (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Himalayan Swiftlet (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Large patch of dry grass adjacent to the river
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Indian Bushlark (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We walked through a large patch of dry grass where an Indian Bushlark showed off its acrobatic skills and a curious young Common Stonechat checked us out.

Common Stonechat (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

It had been an action-packed morning, but it was now around 11AM, and we had a long drive ahead to Lama Camp in Eaglenest WLS. Accordingly, we got back to the hotel and checked out, had lunch and started off for Eaglenest.

With a lot of road-widening work going on, it would take longer than usual to reach our camp. We had decided to squeeze in a few hours birding *en route*, and hence stopped at a patch that had abundant tall bamboo. The first sighting was a big one – three White-throated Bulbuls. Although perched high up, we were happy to have a major species of the region in our kitty.

White-throated Bulbul (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The Silver-eared Mesia tortured us for a while before we managed to get a few record shots. A Streaked Spiderhunter was busy sucking nectar, and a flock of Black Bulbuls lined up on a bamboo stalk.

Black Bulbul (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Streaked Spiderhunter (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A pair of Scarlet Finches high up in the tree tantalized us without coming down, and a Yellow-bellied Fantail made us work for some decent views and passable photographs.

Other interesting species like the Rufous-capped Babbler, Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush and Long-tailed Broadbill were momentarily seen, and the calls of the Great Barbet and the Yellow-browed Warbler were heard.

Yellow-bellied Fantail (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Wood-fired heaters in the dining area (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We then decided to get to Lama Camp and settle in to our tents, where we were to spend the next couple of days. The camps are quaint, with some interesting touches, like wood-fired heaters in the dining area. But Lama and Bongpu Camps in Eaglenest do not have electricity, and power is provided through a generator only for an hour or so in the evening to enable visitors to charge their camera and mobile batteries.

We also had to deal with dinner in the dim light of an emergency lamp and a lantern, which was also the arrangement in the tents as well as the toilets. It is not easy, but the excitement of birding in Eaglenest is more than enough to carry us through these days!

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Day-4: Feb 28, 2021: Lama Camp

Foggy morning at Lama Camp (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The day started on a dull note, with fairly thick fog all around. We prayed that the sun would come out and help us get some good birding during the day. The first sighting was right outside our tents at Lama Camp – the Blue-fronted Redstart, a pretty good species to start with, and an encouraging sign. This was followed by hazy views of an Olive-backed Pipit, a Black-faced Warbler, a couple of Stripe-throated Yuhinas and a Green-tailed Sunbird. Up a slope, we got a glimpse of a Little Bunting, which promptly disappeared from sight before we could take a single photograph, and a Bhutan Laughingthrush, which had us running up and down the stretch of road as it kept diving into the brush and reappearing at another spot a little distance away!

Then we moved to another patch where we came across a pair of Maroon-backed Accentors actively foraging. They were not uncooperative, allowing us plenty of time, but they did maintain their distance, moving as we tried to approach. We saw a Beautiful Sibia, but could barely see the colours, and rued the fact that the fog prevented us from appreciating its beauty properly.

Beautiful Sibia (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The Grey-headed Bullfinch and the Grey-sided Laughingthrush gave brief views but refused to be photographed. The Striated Laughingthrushes were everywhere, as is their wont, and kept popping up to confuse the issue whenever we were keenly searching for something else!

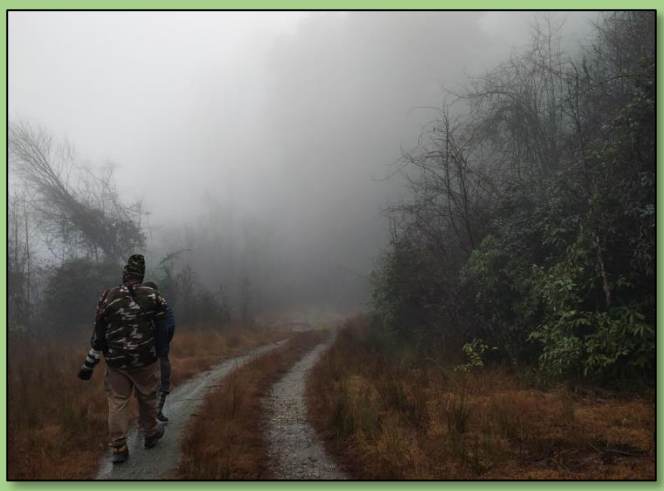
There were plenty of calls heard – Rufous-bellied Woodpecker, Hoary-throated and Streak-throated Barwings – and we kept searching unsuccessfully for the birds. Then we came upon a patch of bamboo that gave us a major target species – the Fire-tailed Myzornis. Of course, it kept darting in and out of the bamboo, but we managed to get some good views.

Yellow-cheeked Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Yellow-cheeked and Yellow-browed Tits, and a Stripe-throated Yuhina, were seen on the dry top branches of a tree, but were difficult to photograph with the poor light. The guide also pointed out a Green Shrike-babbler and a Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, but they were shrouded in fog and practically impossible to see for our untrained eyes.

Long-tailed Thrush (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Brown Bullfinch offered some solace, sitting in the open and allowing us some time. The Long-tailed and Alpine Thrushes were good finds on a road as we walked along, and the guide showed us a Striated Bulbul and a Rufous-vented Yuhina although, again, in poor light. We also heard the calls of the Himalayan Cutia and the Collared Owlet, both high on the list of targets, and it was disappointing that we couldn't actually see them.



Trying to find birds in the thick fog (Photo: Umesh Mani)

It had been a frustrating day. Although there had been a bunch of good species, we had not really been able to see any of them very well, and we could only hope that tomorrow would be better. For now, we had to pack and shift base to Bongpu Camp.

Very low visibility at Lama Camp (Photo: Umesh Mani)

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Day-5: Mar 01, 2021: Bongpu Camp/Lama Camp/En route Tenga

Another foggy morning (Photo: Umesh Mani)

There had been a lot of rain the previous night, which did not bode well for today. The tracks would be slippery, and of course there was a lot of fog. We crossed our fingers that somehow it would clear up enough to allow us some decent birding during the day.

Blue-fronted Redstart female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The day again started with a Blue-fronted Redstart, this time a female.

A Yellow-throated Fulvetta gave a glimpse as it darted about inside the bushes.

Yellow-throated Fulvetta (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Himalayan Bluetail gave a brief view on the side of the road before taking off. A Whiskered Yuhina visited us, although it stayed within the bush. The Long-tailed and Alpine Thrushes were seen, but the light was so poor that we could barely see the birds through our binoculars.

In the trees, we got the White-gorgeted Flycatcher, and a Barred Cuckoo Dove. At least, we got them on paper – though in reality, we could hardly see them.

Then it started drizzling again, and soon, it became very difficult to drive. At one spot, the vehicles actually got stuck for more than an hour – the team had to line the track with stones, branches and the like, as the driver kept trying to get the vehicle out of the mud.

Trying to get the vehicle out of the slush (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We somehow managed to finally get out of the slush, and decided to move to a different area as soon as possible.

Maroon-backed Accentor (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Lower down, a Maroon-backed Accentor gave decent views, as did a pair of Grey-headed Bullfinches. A Bar-winged Wren Babbler proved impossible to photograph or even see properly, darting about inside the shrubbery.

Olive-backed Pipit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Stripe-throated Yuhina (Photo: Umesh Mani)

An Olive-backed Pipit and a Stripe-throated Yuhina, perched on top of a tree as always, were more cooperative. Inside the shrubs, another bird was moving around, and it took a while before we could track and identify it as the female of the Rufous-breasted Bush Robin.

Rufous-breasted Bush Robin female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Grey-cheeked Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Several warblers were seen – Black-faced Warbler, Grey-hooded, Grey-cheeked, Lemon-rumped and Ashy-throated. A pair of Green-tailed Sunbirds were there, and a White-browed Shrike-babbler allowed us to get a good look, as did a Striated Bulbul.

Green-tailed Sunbird male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

White-browed Shrike-babbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

White-tailed Nuthatch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Crested Goshawk was seen in flight, and a White-tailed Nuthatch was actively foraging. A pair of Golden-fronted Barbets also gave decent views.

Golden-fronted Barbet (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Notwithstanding all the above, and in spite of spending several hours spread across two days at the sites known to be favoured by it, we had not been able to get the biggest target bird of this region – the Bugun Liocichla. It was disappointing, but then, that is birding – we never get everything we want! In this case, we had to be satisfied with the model birds on an arch near the camp.

Models of Bugun Liocichla on arch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

By the time afternoon rolled around, the fog had become impenetrable, and we were also having intermittent bursts of rain, so we felt that there was nothing to be gained by hanging around at Bongpu. Accordingly, we decided to change our itinerary, the guide made a few quick calls and we took off for Tenga, hoping that since it was at a lower altitude, at least around there the weather would be more conducive for birding.

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Day-6: Mar 02, 2021: Rupa/Bomdila/Sangti Valley

Having shifted base to Tenga, we decided to start the day with birding near the Kameng River, which is also known as Jia Bhorelli in Assam. The initial sightings were the usual suspects – a pair of Plumbeous Water Redstarts and a White Wagtail. A Brown Dipper showed up for a little while, then flew off downstream. The female of a Hodgson's Redstart, which typically inhabits rocky river beds and nearby areas, gave excellent views, and we spent a fair amount of time watching and photographing it. Then we decided to move further into the river, which had little water and the exposed rocks acted as convenient stepping stones.

We soon found one of the main targets for the day – the Long-billed Plover. It was perfectly camouflaged among the small grey rocks, very difficult to spot – and very easy to lose if you took your eyes off it! We were very happy to see that there was actually a pair (at least) of the Plovers there. They weren't really shy or jittery – although they kept moving as we approached, maintaining a distance between us and them, we were still able to observe them quite well.

Long-billed Plover (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Some movement in the scrub on the riverside caught our attention, and we were galvanized into action when the guide called out "Brown-flanked Bush Warbler"! A Black-throated Prinia, with its disproportionately long tail, was eye-catching.

Black-throated Prinia (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We were watching a White Wagtail when a surprise popped up in the brush nearby – a Little Bunting! I had missed this bird the last 3-4 times I had travelled in this region, and I was happy to finally get it.

Little Bunting (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Another warbler popped up, which again was a lifer for me – the Dusky Warbler – although we were unable to photograph it. There were many other warblers in attendance – Buff-barred, Lemon-rumped, Ashy-throated – and they created so much confusion for us! Thankfully the guide was good with warblers, and was able to quickly identify them for us.

Russet Sparrow female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The male of the Hodgson's Redstart finally showed up, although a little distance away, and we were glad to have got the pair. An Olive-backed Pipit gave good views.

A view of Rupa (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Chillies for breakfast (Photo: Umesh Mani)

After a quick breakfast – where a tray full of colourful chillies made quite an impression! – we decided to move to a different patch of forest. As soon as we reached there, we met a mixed hunting party.

Long-tailed Minivet male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Long-tailed Minivet female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black-throated Bushtit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Green-backed Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The first species we saw was a pair of Long-tailed Minivets which just gave a few seconds before taking off. Then came the rest of them – Black-throated Bushtit, Green-backed Tit, Buff-barred Warbler, Hume's Leaf Warbler, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker pair, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler and Rufous-capped Babbler.

Buff-barred Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Hume's Leaf Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Rufous-capped Babbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

It had been a frenetic but exhilarating half hour – so many species, coming and going in turns, had us really struggling just to get a look at them all. But now we felt the need for some nourishment, so we took a break for some tea before moving to the next spot, near Bomdila.

The first bird to oblige us there was the Stripe-throated Yuhina, which was kind enough to give us some really good views.

Stripe-throated Yuhina (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Next was a bird that is known as a notorious skulker, and it lived up to its reputation completely! It kept moving around in a small patch of underbrush, and we had a difficult time keeping track of where it was. Fortunately it didn't move away from the place, and eventually we were able to get some decent photographs – although still from some weird angles – of the bird in question, the Long-billed Wren Babbler.

Long-billed Wren Babbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We came upon a repair gang that had a man working on top of an electric pole – it was quite dizzying to watch.

Man working atop an electric pole (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Rusty-fronted Barwing (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Yellow-browed Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Yellow-cheeked Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The next sighting was the Rusty-fronted Barwing which came to check us out for half a minute before moving off. This was followed by a small party comprising a Yellow-browed Tit, a Yellow-cheeked Tit, a Black-throated Bushtit and a pair of White-tailed Nuthatches. An Ashy-throated Warbler was also present.

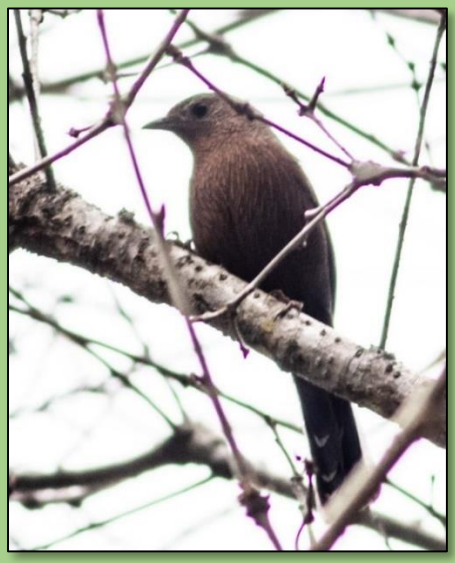
White-tailed Nuthatch pair (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Ashy-throated Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A pair of the gorgeous Black-faced Warblers blessed us with a rather out-of-character unhurried sighting.

Black-faced Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Once the action died down, we moved along to another area, where we saw another Hodgson's Redstart and a Bhutan Laughingthrush. Another tree nearby yielded the Dark-breasted Rosefinch, although high in the canopy. A Little Bunting was also seen.



Bhutan Laughingthrush (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A view of the river (Photo: Umesh Mani)

After a break for lunch, we moved to Sangti Valley on the Sangti River, just a few kilometers from Dirang. A pair of Blue-fronted Redstarts entertained us for a while, and we saw a familiar sight that had been missing for the past several days – the Red-vented Bulbul. We also saw many trees loaded with oranges, reminding us that we hadn't had any fruits for several days!

An orange tree (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Hodgson's Redstart male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Plumbeous Water Redstart female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A pair of Hodgson's Redstarts also appeared and hung around for a while, as also a pair of Plumbeous Water Redstarts. Suddenly, it was Redstart season!

Eurasian Wigeon (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We saw a Eurasian Wigeon, looking very lonely, and a Tricolor Shrike with the full black head.

Ibisbill group (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Then came a sighting that I personally had been waiting for since many years – the Ibisbill. And what a sighting it was! From the road, which was probably around 25-30m above the river level, the sharp eyes of the guide first saw one individual. After taking a few record shots, we decided to climb down to the river to try and get a better view of the bird. By now the guide had found a pair of them. After a while, they took flight and moved further away. Once they landed, we saw that there were actually two more Ibisbills there. But they soon flew away, and we decided to move on too.

Driving along, we came to a spot where there were some rocky outcrops on the side of the road – the perfect habitat for another species we were looking for. And find it we did – the beautiful Wallcreeper. A drab-looking grey bird, it is when it opens its wings that the colours hit you – the maroon on the wings can take you completely by surprise.

Wallcreeper (Photo: Umesh Mani)

With that – and a soul-satisfying meal of vegetable-loaded soupy noodles later! – we decided to wind up for the day. It had been a very productive day, filled with good sightings, a handful of lifers, and a couple of memorable experiences – and we could now safely feel that the rain- and fog-hit days of Lama and Bongpu Camps were behind us. It had been the kind of day that we would talk about to our future generations of birders!

* * *

Day-7: Mar 03, 2021: Sela Pass

Sunrise at Sela Pass (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We set off to visit Sela Pass with a lot of anticipation, since it is known to have some really good birds. We reached Sela Pass after driving for a couple of hours. As we neared, we saw increasing quantities of snow on the hillsides, but nothing prepared us for the sheer beauty of the place.

A view at Sela Pass (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Set at an altitude of nearly 13700ft (4170m), it was above cloud level and commanded a view of the surrounding hills and plains that was simply breathtaking.

An entry gateway at Sela Pass (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We spent the first few minutes just looking around and taking photographs, before beginning our birding for the day.

A tree covered in snow (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Another thing that was breathtaking, of course, was the cold – it was a bone-chilling -10ºC! While we were adequately dressed for it, the combination of the cold and the thin air at that altitude meant that we had to take it really slow – even a short walk of 10-15 steps would get us out of breath.

White-winged Grosbeak (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Anyway, the prospect of some high-altitude species was enticing enough to motivate us. Birding started right where we parked, with the first sighting being a pair of White-winged Grosbeaks perched atop a tree, trying to warm up. A female White-browed Rosefinch gave good views while doing the same, and some Alpine (aka Yellow-billed) Choughs flew around.

White-browed Rosefinch female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Grey-crested Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Some small bird activity in a nearby tree caught our attention. We first saw a Grey-crested Tit followed by a couple of Rufous-vented and Coal Tits. The Tits were their usual hyperactive self, flitting about inside the canopy and frequently exchanging places – it was difficult to keep track of them and very confusing!

Rufous-vented Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Coal Tit (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

White-throated Redstart (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The action was punctuated by other sightings – we saw our first lifer of the day, a White-throated Redstart perched atop a tree. At the same site we also saw the Blue-fronted Redstart.

Hodgson's Treecreeper (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Among the small birds, we also got another lifer, a real bonanza since it is usually so difficult to get – the Goldcrest. A Hodgson's Treecreeper also marked its attendance.

Goldcrest (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Alpine Accentor (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A few metres away, we saw a small group of 4-5 chubby-looking birds hopping around on another bunch of trees. They turned out to be Alpine Accentors, and we spent a little time watching and clicking them.

Upland Buzzard (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A small flock of birds feeding on the ground were identified as the Plain Mountain Finch, one of the more common species at this place. An Upland Buzzard glided around at eye level for a while before moving further down the valley. A flock of Snow Pigeons also gave us a flypast, but their swift flight meant that they crossed overhead before we could get any photos.

Meanwhile, the small birds were still active in the first bunch of trees and, since there wasn't much else happening, we went and watched them for some more time. The Coal Tits were closer this time.

Snow-covered hillside near Sela Pass (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We decided to move to a nearby location called Jaswantgarh. This place hosts a War Memorial named after a brave soldier, Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat of 4 Garhwal Rifles, who was martyred here after a 3-day-long battle against the Chinese during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. It is a stirring story that is worth reading up on, and has recently also been made into a movie titled 72 Hours: Martyr Who Never Died. It is a must-visit place for anyone who is in the vicinity.

At this site, the Indian Army also runs a small canteen that offers free tea to everyone. The garbage dump behind this canteen seems to be very popular among the birds of the area!

Blue Whistling Thrush (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Winter Wren (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

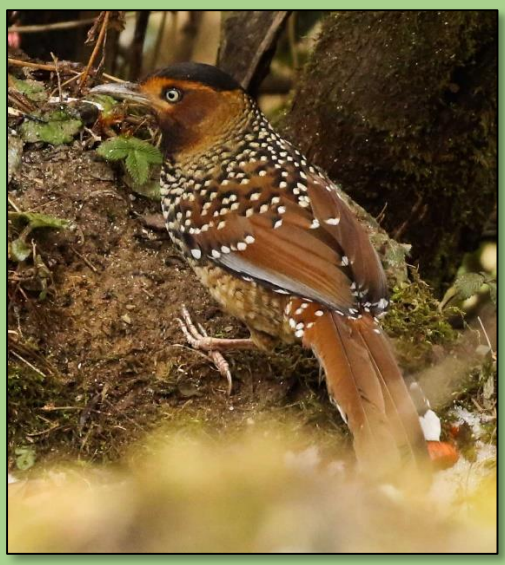
Spotted Nutcracker (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

We saw many species there that are otherwise not too easy to get – besides the ubiquitous Blue-fronted Redstart and Blue Whistling Thrush, we got the Winter Wren, Spotted Nutcracker, White-collared Blackbird and White-browed Rosefinch.

White-browed Rosefinch (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

The Spotted, Black-faced and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrushes also gave good views, as did the Brown-throated Fulvetta.

Black-faced Laughingthrush (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)



Spotted Laughingthrush (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Brown-throated Fulvetta (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We had a quick snack and some tea at the canteen to warm up, then moved to a grassy area that also had a stream running through it, although now it was almost frozen. Here we found the White-throated Dipper which, as expected, was standing around near the icy water! It was quite cooperative, and we watched it for about 10 minutes as it went about its business.

White-throated Dipper (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Red-billed Chough (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

We also saw a few Red-billed Choughs strutting about on the grass. A small flock of Plain Mountain Finches were foraging, too – we found it quite amazing that they could find something to eat even in that snow-covered grass. The customary Yaks were also around.

Plain Mountain Finch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Yak (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Hodgson's Redstart (male) (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A male Hodgson's Redstart was seen patiently posing for us. A Buff-barred Warbler gave good views. Grey-winged and White-collared Blackbirds put in an appearance, as did a White-tailed Nuthatch and a Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush female.

Buff-barred Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Grey-winged Blackbird (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

White-collared Blackbird (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A Brown-throated Treecreeper was added to the list.

Brown-throated Treecreeper (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Brown Dipper (Photo: Umesh Mani)

By now it was past 3:00PM, and we still had a fairly long drive back to base. As a parting shot, a Brown Dipper put in an appearance, along with a Plumbeous Water Redstart, completing our tally for the day. The Dipper's habit of fishing in the glacial waters never ceases to amaze me!

We had come to Sela Pass today with four main targets – Blood Pheasant, Solitary Snipe, Snow Partridge and Grandala – and had not got even one of those! Notwithstanding that, it had still been an action-packed day filled with some very good sightings, and we were quite satisfied.

* * *

Day-8: Mar 04, 2021: Mandala

Today we were to go to Mandala, the other major high-altitude location on this trip. As we started off and came upon a site with thick scrub, the first bird we saw was the Small Niltava. Its brilliant blue colours were striking in the morning sun, although it was deep inside some bushes.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker male (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

The next sighting was one of the target species for the day – the Fire-breasted Flowerpecker. We saw a pair, and the male especially gave us quite some time.

A Dark-breasted Rosefinch, perched on top of a dry branch, and an Olive-backed Pipit gave us some nice views.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

In a patch of thick scrub, we saw a Brown-flanked Bush Warbler, which tormented us for quite a while it constantly kept flitting about inside the scrub, and it was impossible to even get a proper view.

Brown-flanked Bush Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black-tailed Crake (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

We then moved to another location beside a village school, which was known to host one of our main target birds for the day, the Black-tailed Crake. It was a very small patch of reeds and water, and I was amazed that the bird had identified and occupied the site amidst a large scrub forest. Just as we thought that we could walk around a little and find a few other birds while the guide searched for the Crake, he called us and pointed out the bird, which was foraging about in the reeds. It has the most beautiful green bill, and I wondered why it would be named for any feature other than that!

Russet Sparrow (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Blue-fronted Redstart male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Tricolor Shrike (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Some other birds seen at the same spot were the Green-backed Tit, Red-vented Bulbul (the northern sub-species *bengalensis* with the brown ear-panel), the customary Blue-fronted Redstarts, a Russet Sparrow, a beautiful Tricolor Shrike – and an unexpected bonanza, which we had least expected there – a Chestnut Thrush! It flew off after just a couple of seconds, before we could take a single photo, and though we heard the calls and searched for it for quite some time after that, we could not find it again.

White-collared Blackbird female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

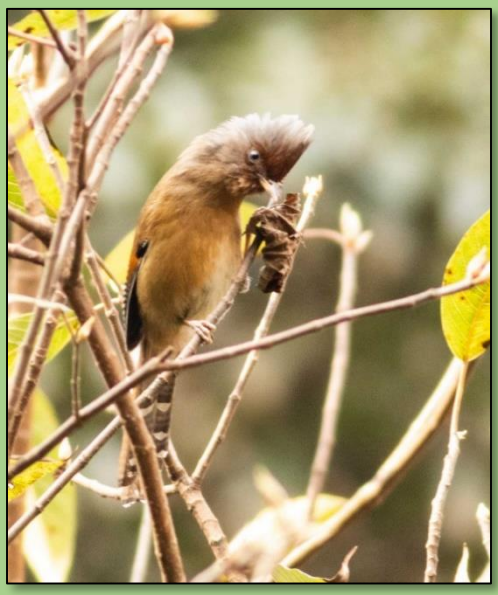
Green-tailed Sunbird female
(Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A White-tailed Nuthatch, Black-throated Bushtit and a pair of Green-tailed Sunbirds were active.

Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Maroon-backed Accentor (Photo: Umesh Mani)

An Alpine Thrush gave a fleeting view. A Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler, another important target bird, was seen for a few seconds, hopping about on a tree. The Rusty-fronted Barwing and a Maroon-backed Accentor gave good views.



Rusty-fronted Barwing (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Rufous-breasted Accentor (Photo: Umesh Mani)

East Himalayan Striped Squirrel (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Rufous-breasted Accentor was seen in a field. A squirrel scampering around in the trees turned out to be the East Himalayan Striped Squirrel!

Rufous-vented Yuhina (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Black-chinned Yuhina (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Rufous-vented Yuhina gave us ample time to watch as it sipped nectar from some flowers. A Black Eagle gave a flypast. A Black-chinned Yuhina appeared for a while.

Fire-tailed Myzornis (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We then walked along for a bit till we saw some activity in the trees, and were thrilled to see the Fire-tailed Myzornis again – this time it gave a little more time and a better opportunity to see and photograph it. An Alpine Thrush also appeared and, as if to make up for the momentary view it had given in the morning, hung around for a while before flying up into the trees.

Alpine Thrush (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Gold-naped Finch male (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A pair of Green-tailed Sunbirds showed up, as did the Beautiful Sibia and the Stripe-throated Yuhina. We saw a small flock of Gold-naped Finches – another bird we had been waiting to see for a while.

Gold-naped Finch female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Blanford's Rosefinch female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Himalayan Bluetail gave a glimpse, and a female Rosefinch turned out to be the Blanford's Rosefinch! A small mixed group of Grey-headed and Brown Bullfinches hopped around for a few moments, and a flock of Black-faced Warblers created a ruckus.

Mixed flock of Grey-headed & Brown Bullfinches
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

It was almost 11:00AM, and we were hungry, not having eaten anything since morning. So, when we arrived at the mountain top, we stopped at a small shack serving tea and that lifeline of hungry birders in the North-east – Maggi! That shack apparently was the only place where we could get anything at all for several kilometres around, and we were grateful for the hot food.

108 Mane (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We also spent a few minutes at a prayer site called 108 Mane. But it soon started drizzling, and we quickly ran back into the vehicles – the rain can be freezing cold here! – and decided to start driving down, since it was quite a long way.

A memorial at 108 Mane (Photo: Umesh Mani)

En route, the rain strengthened, making it a slippery drive down a treacherous road. The rain had changed to snow, and the temperature had dipped to a mind-numbing -15ºC!

That put an end to birding for the day, and we focused on getting back to base. Although we had birded for only half a day, it had been very productive, with some excellent species and a few lifers thrown in, and we were quite content.

* * *

Day-9: Mar 05, 2021: Dirang, Mandala, Phudung, Shergaon

We started the day with a quest to find the Crested Kingfisher. As we drove up and down beside the Kameng river near Dirang, we instead chanced upon a mega-bonus species – the Mandarin Duck! This bird **had** been reported from Arunachal Pradesh a couple of times earlier, but each time there had been only one male bird – this time, we found one male and 3 females. It was apparently the first time that females had been reported from Arunachal – this was big news for birding circles here, so much so that it actually made the newspapers and TV news that day!

Mandarin Duck (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Having found something so rare, we spent some time watching and photographing them as they swam around in the water, sunned themselves on the rocks, and generally kept us engaged. There was one interesting interlude when a female, approaching the male, was repeatedly chased away by one of the other females. The result of a gender imbalance, we surmised!

After spending almost an hour with the Mandarin Ducks, we decided to look for other birds, including the Crested Kingfisher, which was still pending. We were distracted for a while by an active Grey-hooded Warbler – possibly the commonest of the warblers in this area, but attractive nevertheless.

Grey-hooded Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Whiskered Yuhina (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A pair of Whiskered Yuhinas gave ample photo opportunities as they foraged in a nearby tree. A Green-backed Tit was also around.

Ibisbill (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Moving a little down the river, we came upon an Ibisbill foraging in the water – our second sighting in two days. Since we had already seen them well earlier, we decided to bird a little more for other birds first. We were startled by a flock of around 20 Common Teals that appeared out of nowhere and flew along the river, going past us just above head height.

Common Teal (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Wallcreeper (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black Redstart female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We were also quite thrilled when we saw a Wallcreeper perched on one of the riverside rocks which flew across the river as soon as it noticed us. A male Black Redstart confused the issue by also flying around at the same time, while the female was content to sit and watch the action. A Brown Dipper was also seen at the same location, as was a second Ibisbill.

Realizing that it may well be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, we made our way near the river bank, to try and get closer to the birds. The pair of Ibisbills were foraging peacefully in the icy waters of the Sangti River. Since we were on the other side of the river, they were not perturbed and continued foraging. It was so obviously a unique opportunity that we sat down on the rocks to watch them at leisure. And for the next almost two hours, we did not budge!

They are usually quite difficult to locate among the riverine rocks, and it was so satisfying to watch them for such a long time. But it was also saddening to see that even such pristine locations were not insulated from the irresponsible acts of man – plastic bags, bottles and other such waste was strewn all along the edge of the water, possibly dumped upstream and brought there by the water.

We couldn't forget about our other big find, of course, so we went back to have another look at the Mandarin Ducks, and spent another hour there. Then we decided to resume our search for the Crested Kingfisher.

Himalayan Bluetail (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Alpine Thrush (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Striated Bulbul (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Russet Bush Warbler (Photo: Umesh Mani)

En route, a Himalayan Bluetail gave good views, as did an Alpine Thrush on the side of the road. We got good views of a Striated Bulbul, and fleeting glimpses of a warbler inside the scrub which our guide told us was a Russet Bush Warbler – it was very difficult to even get a decent record shot!

Great Barbet (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A Chestnut-tailed Minla (now known as Bar-throated Siva) put in an appearance, and we also saw a pair of Great Barbets and a small flock of raucous White-throated Laughingthrushes.

White-throated Laughingthrush (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Black-headed Shrike-babbler male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black-headed Shrike-babbler female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

White-browed Shrike-babbler male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A little later, we got to see two interesting species together – the Black-headed Shrike-babbler and the White-browed Shrike-babbler. Other great species at the same place were the Crimson-breasted Woodpecker, and its cousin, the Darjeeling Woodpecker.

Crimson-breasted Woodpecker (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Darjeeling Woodpecker (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Soon after, we got another major target species of ours – the Himalayan Cutia, probing the mossy tree branches for prey.

Himalayan Cutia (Photo: Umesh Mani)

It was past 1:00PM now, so we decided to take a break for lunch. After that, we drove on the Mandala Road, hoping to get some species we had missed yesterday.

Dark-breasted Rosefinch male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Dark-breasted Rosefinch female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black-faced Laughingthrush (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

The first bird we saw was the Dark-breasted Rosefinch, followed by a pair of Black-faced Laughingthrushes foraging in the grass amidst the snow. We also found a Yellow-billed Blue Magpie and a Rufous-breasted Accentor – this time it gave better views than yesterday.

Yellow-billed Blue Magpie (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Rufous-breasted Accentor (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A Himalayan Buzzard flew past, and we saw an Oriental Turtle Dove perched on a tree. A White-collared Blackbird gave good views.

Himalayan Buzzard (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A view of Dirang valley (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

We came upon a patch of scrub where we heard some rustling and saw some movement, and decided to wait till we got a view of whatever was inside. After a while, our patience was rewarded and we got to see the bird – it turned out to be another notorious skulker, the Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler.

The Black-chinned Yuhinas and Black-faced Warblers turned up, as if to bid us farewell before we wound up for the day. It had been a very eventful day, and we retired, satisfied with our efforts and the results for today.

* * *

Day-10: Mar 06, 2021: Lama Camp, Eaglenest Pass, Kameng River

Since the weather was a little better, we decided to try our luck towards Lama Camp and Eaglenest Pass. Accordingly we started off early in the morning. A small bird, darting about on the bushes, turned out to be the White-browed Bush Robin female, followed in quick succession by a Striated Laughingthrush, Beautiful Sibia and Green-tailed Sunbird.

White-browed Bush Robin female (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Striated Laughingthrush (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Streak-throated Barwing (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A Streak-throated Barwing allowed us to watch for quite some time, and a small flock of Grey-headed Bullfinches entertained for a while.

Grey-headed Bullfinch (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Black-throated Bushtit (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A few Black-throated Bushtits were also around, being their usual hyperactive selves.

Brown Bullfinch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A little later, we also got to see a Brown Bullfinch sitting high on a flowering tree, unfortunately too far to get any good photographs. A Green-tailed Sunbird tried to make up for it, appearing very close by and allowing us to take some nice close-ups.

Green-tailed Sunbird male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Beautiful Sibia (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A Beautiful Sibia also gave good views. A family of Olive-backed Pipits surprised us by appearing *en masse*.

Olive-backed Pipit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

As we were searching for the Bugun Liocichla, we were in for another surprise – a small flock of Crimson-browed Finches. Again, they were quite far away, high in the cluttered canopy of a dry tree, but the sharp eyes of the guide located them. A Blue-fronted Redstart also allowed us a good look.

Crimson-browed Finch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Blue-fronted Redstart male (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Moving ahead, a Kalij Pheasant female zipped across the road, and we also saw a Bhutan Laughingthrush foraging on the side of the road.

Looking for birds near the Dirang river (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Red Admiral (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Large Tortoiseshell (Photo: Umesh Mani)

After a quick break for lunch, we decided to move to Dirang, near the river. *En route*, we saw a couple of beautiful butterflies – a Large Tortoiseshell and an Indian Red Admiral. At the river, the first bird we saw was the Blue Rock Thrush, followed by a Hodgson's Redstart female, a White Wagtail and a couple of Eurasian Tree Sparrows.

Blue Rock Thrush (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Hodgson's Redstart female (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (Photo: Umesh Mani)

White Wagtail (Photo: Umesh Mani)

By now it was beginning to get dark, so we decided to wind up for the day and return to the hotel. Tomorrow was to be the last day of the trip. And of course, we felt "Already?!"

* * *

Day-11: Mar 07, 2021: Shergaon, Tenzingaon, Ankailing, Sukha Nala

We had time for about half a day's birding today before we would have to start for Guwahati for our return flights. We decided to try and maximize it by birding at some high-potential areas along the route to Guwahati. Accordingly, we started off towards Shergaon early in the morning.

The day's tally started with a couple of Eurasian Tree Sparrows – right outside our hotel! It was a little ironic, considering we had got the first Tree Sparrows of the trip just last evening, after travelling all over Eaglenest, and here they were today, just outside our rooms.

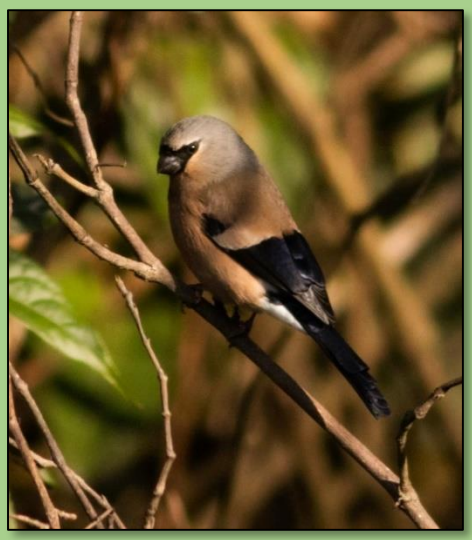
Rufous-breasted Accentor & Little Bunting
(Photo: Umesh Mani)

Yellow-browed Tit (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Anyway, we got going towards Shergaon, and were greeted by a Grey-hooded Warbler and a Yellow-browed Tit. Ashy-throated and Hume's Leaf Warblers were also present, as were the Black-throated Bushtit and Green-backed Tit.

A Little Bunting was very cooperative. On looking around, there seemed to be a good population of Little Buntings around – I counted at least 7 of them at that point of time.

Dark-sided Flycatcher (Photo: Umesh Mani)



Grey-headed Bullfinch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A beautiful Rufous-breasted Accentor presented itself, as did a Dark-sided Flycatcher, Black-throated Bushtit and Grey-headed Bullfinch.

A little further, at Tenzingaon, a Golden-throated Barbet and a Nepal House Martin gave brief views.

Nepal House Martin (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Black-throated Sunbird (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Changeable Hawk Eagle (Photo: Umesh Mani)

After a quick stop for breakfast, we moved on to Ankailing. A Crested Serpent Eagle flew past, while a Grey Bushchat female and a Black-throated Sunbird showed up. We saw a Changeable Hawk Eagle circling for a while.

Silver-eared Mesia (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Long-tailed Sibia (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A Silver-eared Mesia and a Long-tailed Sibia were welcome additions to the day's sightings.

A view at Sukha Nala (Photo: Umesh Mani)

A pair of Orange-bellied Leafbirds popped up and added a burst of colour to the surroundings. We saw a Nuthatch indulging in its usual acrobatics; it turned out to be the Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch.

Orange-bellied Leafbird male (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Orange-bellied Leafbird female (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We saw a Whiskered Yuhina deeply engrossed in sucking the nectar from a flower – it looked quite guilty, like a boy with his hand in a cookie jar, when it looked around and saw us photographing it!

Whiskered Yuhina (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Sultan Tit (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

The beautiful Sultan Tit appeared for the first time on the trip – unfortunately I was a little far away, but Vikram and Abhishek got some lovely photographs.

Black-winged Cuckooshrike (Photo: Vikram Penmetsa)

A Black-winged Cuckooshrike showed up briefly before flying off into the forest. Then came the sight that literally took our breath away – in the valley nearby, we saw a pair of Wreathed Hornbills, then another couple flying to join them on the bare tree, then one more, then two more – until there were at least twelve of them dotted about on 2-3 trees! Of course, they were far away, across the valley, and we wished that they had been closer – they were too far to capture in any detail. Nevertheless, it was incredible to see so many of them together. Finally they all took off and flew downriver. We went scampering down the road, hoping to see them land somewhere nearby, but that was not to be.

Wreathed Hornbill (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Common Gull (Photo: Umesh Mani)

There were also a lot of butterflies around, though they seemed to be always moving and we couldn't pursue them. But we did manage to capture a couple of them. One was a beautiful Common Gull. Another was the rather cryptically coloured Assam Tailed Red Forester – a species I had never even heard of! – and that was followed by the stunning Orange Oakleaf.

Assam Tailed Red Forester (Photo: Umesh Mani)

Orange Oakleaf (Photo: Umesh Mani)

We heard the call of the Grey Peacock Pheasant – but it was coming from somewhere way down in the valley, and it was such a huge disappointment to realize that there was no chance of seeing it this time! Another call we heard was that of the Yellow-bellied Warbler – which again was a big miss, because I had been really hoping to see it.

By now, it was past 12 o'clock, already a little late for our long drive ahead to Guwahati for our return flight that evening, and we had to get a move on. So we started off, deciding not to stop anywhere *en route*.

On the way to Guwahati, we did, of course, see several birds as we drove past – Coppersmith Barbet, Long-tailed Shrike, Black-hooded Oriole, Asian Openbill, Spotted Dove, Bronze-winged Jacana – all the sightings seemed designed to drive home the fact that our sojourn in the mountains was over!

It had been an eventful trip. A significant part of the trip had been washed out due to rain and fog – but this had been made up for to a great extent by the sightings after we changed plans and moved down to Dirang. On the whole, it had been quite a productive and satisfying trip, and we resolved to try and come back as soon as we could.

The full list of birds seen during the trip is given below:

Sl No	Species Name	Scientific Name	Location											
			Deepor Beel	Garbhanga	Guwahati Garbage Dump	En route to Nameri	Nameri	En route to & At Lama Camp/ Bongpu Camp/Alubari/Eaglenest Pass/En route to Tenga/River	Rupa/Bomdila/Sangti Valley	Sela Pass/Jaswantgarh	Mandala/Nagagigi	Dirang/Mandala/Phudung/Shergaon	Shergaon/Tenzingaon/Ankailing/Sukha Nala	Guwahati Road
1	Abbott's Babbler	*Malacocincla abbotti*					Y							
2	Alpine Accentor	*Prunella collaris*								Y				
3	Altai Accentor	*Prunella himalayana*								Y				
4	Ashy Drongo	*Dicrurus leucophaeus*						Y					Y	
5	Ashy-throated Warbler	*Abrornis maculipennis*						Y	Y	Y			Y	
6	Asian Barred Owlet	*Glaucidium cuculoides*		Y			Y							
7	Asian Openbill	*Anastomus oscitans*	Y											Y
8	Asian Palm Swift	*Cypsiurus balasiensis*											Y	
9	Asian Pied Starling	*Gracupica contra*		Y	Y		Y							
10	Bar-headed Goose	*Anser indicus*					Y			Y				
11	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*					Y							
12	Barred Cuckoo Dove	*Macropygia unchall*						Y						
13	Bar-winged Wren Babbler	*Spelaeornis troglodytoides*						Y						
14	Beautiful Sibia	*Heterophasia pulchella*						Y	Y		Y	Y		
15	Bengal Bushlark	*Mirafra assamica*					Y							
16	Bhutan Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron imbricatum*						Y	Y					
17	Black Bulbul	*Hypsipetes leucocephalus*					Y	Y			Y			
18	Black Drongo	*Dicrurus macrocercus*	Y	Y			Y							Y
19	Black Eagle	*Ictinaetus malaiensis*						Y			Y		Y	
20	Black Kite	*Milvus migrans*	Y		Y									
21	Black Redstart	*Phoenicurus ochruros*										Y		
22	Black-chinned Yuhina	*Yuhina nigrimenta*									Y	Y		
23	Black-crested Bulbul	*Pycnonotus melanicterus*					Y							
24	Black-eared Kite	*Milvus migrans lineatus*	Y	Y	Y									
25	Black-faced Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron affine*								Y		Y		
26	Black-faced Warbler	*Abroscopus schisticeps*						Y	Y					
27	Black-headed Shrike-babbler	*Pteruthius rufiventer*										Y		
28	Black-hooded Oriole	*Oriolus xanthornus*		Y			Y							Y
29	Black-tailed Crake	*Zapornia bicolor*									Y			
30	Black-throated Prinia	*Prinia atrogularis*						Y	Y			Y	Y	
31	Black-throated Sunbird	*Aethopyga saturata*		Y									Y	
32	Black-throated Tit	*Aegithalos concinnus*						Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
33	Black-winged Cuckooshrike	*Lalage melaschistos*		Y			Y						Y	
34	Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	Y											

35	Blandford's Rosefinch	*Agraphospiza rubescens*									Y			
36	Blossom-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula roseata*					Y							
37	Blue Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*	Y					Y	Y					
38	Blue Rock Thrush	*Monticola solitarius*						Y		Y	Y	Y		
39	Blue Whistling Thrush	*Myophonus caeruleus*										Y		
40	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	*Nyctyornis athertoni*					Y							
41	Blue-fronted Redstart	*Adelura frontalis*						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
42	Blue-throated Barbet	*Psilopogon asiaticus*		Y			Y							
43	Blyth's Leaf Warbler	*Seicercus reguloides*		Y				Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
44	Bronzed Drongo	*Dicrurus aeneus*						Y						
45	Bronze-winged Jacana	*Metopidius indicus*	Y											Y
46	Brown Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula nipalensis*						Y			Y			
47	Brown Dipper	*Cinclus pallasii*						Y	Y	Y		Y		
48	Brown Shrike	*Lanius cristatus*		Y			Y							
49	Brown-flanked Bush Warbler	*Horornis fortipes*						Y	Y		Y			
50	Brown-throated Fulvetta	*Fulvetta ludlowi*								Y				
51	Brown-throated Treecreeper	*Certhia discolor*						Y		Y				
52	Buff-barred Warbler	*Abrornis pulcher*							Y	Y				
53	Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	Y		Y		Y							Y
54	Changeabe Hawk Eagle	*Nisaetus cirrhatus*											Y	
55	Chestnut Thrush	*Turdus rubrocanus*									Y			
56	Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch	*Sitta castanea*		Y									Y	
57	Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush	*Monticola rufiventris*								Y				
58	Chestnut-breasted Partridge	*Arborophila mandellii*						Y						
59	Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush	*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*								Y				
60	Chestnut-tailed Minla (aka Bar-throated Siva)	*Chrysominla strigula*										Y		
61	Chestnut-tailed Starling	*Sturnia malabarica*					Y							
62	Pond Heron sp. (Probably Chinese)	*Ardeola sp.*					Y							
63	Citrine Wagtail	*Motacilla citreola*	Y		Y									
64	Coal Tit	*Periparus ater*								Y				
65	Collared Owlet	*Glaucidium brodiei*						Y				Y		
66	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*					Y							
67	Common Hawk Cuckoo	*Hierococcyx varius*		Y										
68	Common Iora	*Aegithina tiphia*		Y			Y							
69	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*					Y							
70	Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis*					Y							
71	Common Myna	*Acridotheres tristis*		Y	Y		Y	Y					Y	
72	Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*					Y		Y					
73	Common Stonechat	*Saxicola torquatus*	Y				Y							
74	Common Teal	*Anas crecca*								Y		Y		
75	Coppersmith Barbet	*Psilopogon haemacephalus*												Y
76	Crested Goshawk	*Accipiter trivirgatus*						Y						
77	Crested Serpent Eagle	*Spilornis cheela*					Y						Y	
78	Crimson Sunbird	*Aethopyga siparaja*		Y										
79	Crimson-breasted Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos cathpharius*										Y		
80	Crimson-browed Finch	*Carpodacus subhimachalus*						Y						

81	Darjeeling Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos darjellensis*						Y				Y		
82	Dark-breasted Rosefinch	*Procarduelis nipalensis*						Y	Y		Y	Y		
83	Dark-necked Tailorbird	*Orthotomus atrogularis*		Y										
84	Dark-sided Flycatcher	*Muscicapa sibirica*											Y	
85	Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*				Y								
86	Daurian Redstart	*Phoenicurus auroreus*					Y							
87	Dollarbird	*Eurystomus orientalis*		Y										
88	Dusky Warbler	*Phylloscopus fuscatus*							Y		Y			
89	Eastern Jungle Crow	*Corvus levaillantii*			Y		Y		Y					
90	Eurasian Crag Martin	*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*		Y										
91	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*						Y	Y					
92	Eurasian Wigeon	*Mareca penelope*							Y					
93	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	*Dicaeum ignipectus*						Y	Y		Y			
94	Fire-capped Tit	*Cephalopyrus flammiceps*										Y		
95	Fire-tailed Myzornis	*Myzornis pyrrhoura*						Y			Y	Y		
96	Forktail sp. (Probably Black-backed)	*Enicurus sp.*		Y										
97	Fulvous Whistling-duck	*Dendrocygna bicolor*	Y											Y
98	Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	Y											
99	Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*								Y				
100	Golden Bush Robin	*Tarsiger chrysaeus*								Y				
101	Golden-fronted Leafbird	*Chloropsis aurifrons*					Y							
102	Golden-throated Barbet	*Psilopogon franklinii*						Y					Y	
103	Gold-naped Finch	*Pyrrhoplectes epauletta*									Y			
104	Great Barbet	*Megalaima virens*		Y				Y			Y	Y	Y	
105	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*					Y							Y
106	Great Crested Grebe	*Podiceps cristatus*					Y							
107	Great Indian Hornbill	*Buceros bicornis*					Y							
108	Great Tit	*Parus major*		Y										
109	Greater Adjutant	*Leptoptilos dubius*			Y									
110	Greater Coucal	*Centropus sinensis*											Y	
111	Greater Flameback	*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*					Y							
112	Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush	*Garrulax pectoralis*		Y										
113	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	*Dicrurus paradiseus*		Y										
114	Green Imperial Pigeon	*Ducula aenea*		Y			Y							
115	Green Sandpiper	*Tringa ochropus*					Y							
116	Green Shrike-babbler	*Pteruthius xanthochlorus*						Y						
117	Green-backed Tit	*Parus monticolus*						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
118	Greenish Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochiloides*		Y					Y	Y				
119	Green-tailed Sunbird	*Aethopyga nipalensis*						Y	Y		Y		Y	
120	Grey Bushchat	*Saxicola ferreus*					Y		Y		Y			
121	Grey Peacock Pheasant	*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*											Y	
122	Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	Y		Y		Y							
123	Grey-backed Shrike	*Lanius tephronotus*		Y			Y							
124	Grey-breasted Prinia	*Prinia hodgsonii*		Y										
125	Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos canicapillus*		Y			Y							

126	Grey-cheeked Warbler	*Phylloscopus poliogenys*						Y						
127	Grey-crested Tit	*Lophophanes dichrous*								Y				
128	Grey-headed Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula erythaca*						Y			Y		Y	
129	Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	*Culicicapa ceylonensis*					Y							
130	Grey-headed Lapwing	*Vanellus cinereus*	Y											
131	Grey-headed Swamphen	*Porphyrio poliocephalus*	Y		Y									
132	Grey-hooded Warbler	*Phylloscopus xanthoschistos*						Y		Y		Y		
133	Grey-sided Bush Warbler	*Cettia brunnifrons*									Y			
134	Grey-sided Laughingthrush	*Garrulax caerulatus*						Y						
135	Grey-throated Babbler	*Stachyris nigriceps*											Y	
136	Grey-winged Blackbird	*Turdus boulboul*								Y				
137	Himalayan Bluetail	*Tarsiger rufilatus*						Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
138	Himalayan Buzzard	*Buteo refectus*										Y		
139	Himalayan Cutia	*Cutia nipalensis*						Y				Y		
140	Hoary-throated Barwing	*Sibia nipalensis*						Y				Y		
141	Hodgson's Redstart	*Phoenicurus hodgsoni*						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
142	Hodgson's Treecreeper	*Certhia hodgsoni*								Y				
143	House Crow	*Corvus splendens*			Y									Y
144	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*						Y	Y		Y			Y
145	Hume's Leaf Warbler	*Abrornis humei*		Y					Y				Y	
146	Ibisbill	*Ibidorhyncha struthersii*							Y			Y		
147	Indian Pond Heron	*Ardeola grayii*	Y				y							
148	Indian Thick-knee	*Burhinus indicus*					Y							
149	Indian White-eye	*Zosterops palpebrosus*		Y					Y					
150	Indo-Chinese Roller	*Coracias affinis*					Y							
151	Jacobin Cuckoo	*Clamator jacobinus*					Y							
152	Jungle Myna	*Acridotheres fuscus*			Y	Y	Y							
153	Kalij Pheasant	*Lophura leucomelanos*						Y						
154	Large Woodshrike	*Tephrodornis virgatus*		Y			Y							
155	Large-billed Crow	*Corvus macrorhynchos*										Y		
156	Lemon-rumped Warbler	*Abrornis chloronotus*						Y	Y					
157	Lesser Adjutant	*Leptoptilos javanicus*				Y								
158	Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush	*Garrulax monileger*						Y						
159	Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	*Dicrurus remifer*						Y						
160	Lineated Barbet	*Psilopogon lineatus*					Y							
161	Little Bunting	*Schoeniclus pusillus*						Y	Y				Y	
162	Little Cormorant	*Microcarbo niger*	Y				Y							
163	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*			Y		Y							
164	Little Ringed Plover	*Charadrius dubius*					Y							
165	Long-billed Plover	*Charadrius placidus*						Y	Y					
166	Long-billed Wren Babbler	*Rimator malacoptilus*							Y					
167	Long-tailed (Tricolor) Shrike	*Lanius schach tricolor*					Y	Y	Y		Y			
168	Long-tailed Broadbill	*Psarisomus dalhousiae*						Y						
169	Long-tailed Minivet	*Pericrocotus ethologus*					Y	Y	Y					
170	Long-tailed Shrike	*Lanius schach*												Y

171	Long-tailed Sibia	*Heterophasia picaoides*											Y	
172	Long-tailed Thrush	*Zoothera dixoni*						Y						
173	Mandarin Duck	*Aix galericulata*										Y		
174	Maroon Oriole	*Oriolus traillii*					Y							
175	Maroon-backed Accentor	*Prunella immaculata*						Y			Y	Y		
176	Mountain Bulbul	*Ixos mcclellandii*										Y		
177	Mountain Scops Owl	*Otus spilocephalus*						Y						
178	Nepal Fulvetta	*Alcippe nipalensis*									Y			
179	Nepal House Martin	*Delichon nipalense*											Y	
180	Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	Y											
181	Northern Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	Y											
182	Olive-backed Pipit	*Anthus hodgsoni*					Y	Y	Y		Y			
183	Orange-bellied Leafbird	*Chloropsis hardwickii*		Y			Y						Y	
184	Oriental Honey-buzzard	*Pernis ptilorhynchus*					Y							
185	Oriental Magpie Robin	*Copsychus saularis*					Y							
186	Oriental Pied Hornbill	*Anthracoceros albirostris*					Y							
187	Oriental Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia orientalis*		Y			Y					Y		
188	Paddyfield Pipit	*Anthus rufulus*	Y		Y									
189	Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*					Y							
190	Pin-striped Tit Babbler	*Mixornis gularis*		Y										
191	Pin-tailed Green Pigeon	*Treron apicauda*					Y							
192	Plain Mountain Finch	*Leucosticte nemoricola*								Y				
193	Plain Prinia	*Prinia inornata*					Y							
194	Alpine (earlier Plain-backed) Thrush	*Zoothera mollissima*						Y			Y	Y		
195	Plumbeous Water Redstart	*Rhyacornis fuliginosa*					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
196	Plum-headed Parakeet	*Psittacula cyanocephala*					Y							
197	Puff-throated Babbler	*Pellorneum ruficeps*					Y							
198	Purple Heron	*Ardea purpurea*	Y											
199	Red Junglefowl	*Gallus gallus*		Y			Y							
200	Red-billed Chough	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*								Y				
201	Red-breasted Parakeet	*Psittacula alexandri*					Y							
202	Red-headed Bullfinch	*Pyrrhula erythrocephala*									Y			
203	Red-tailed Minla	*Minla ignotincta*									Y			
204	Red-vented Bulbul	*Pycnonotus cafer*		Y			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
205	Red-wattled Lapwing	*Vanellus indicus*					Y							
206	Red-whiskered Bulbul	*Pycnonotus jocosus*					Y	Y						
207	River Lapwing	*Vanellus duvaucelii*					Y							
208	River Tern	*Sterna aurantia*					Y							
209	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*		Y			Y							
210	Rosy Pipit	*Anthus roseatus*			Y									
211	Ruddy Shelduck	*Tadorna ferruginea*					Y							
212	Rufous Treepie	*Dendrocitta vagabunda*		Y										
213	Rufous-bellied Niltava	*Niltava sundara*					Y							
214	Rufous-bellied Woodpecker	*Dendrocopos hyperythrus*						Y						
215	Rufous-breasted Accentor	*Prunella strophiata*						Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	

216	Rufous-breasted Bush Robin	*Tarsiger hyperythrus*						Y	Y					
217	Rufous-capped Babbler	*Cyanoderma ruficeps*						Y	Y					
218	Rufous-throated Wren Babbler	*Spelaeornis caudatus*						Y						
219	Rufous-vented Tit	*Periparus rubidiventris*								Y				
220	Rufous-vented Yuhina	*Yuhina occipitalis*						Y			Y			
221	Russet Bush Warbler	*Locustella mandelli*										Y		
222	Russet Sparrow	*Passer cinnamomeus*							Y		Y	Y		
223	Rusty-fronted Barwing	*Actinodura egertoni*						Y	Y		Y			
224	Sand Martin	*Riparia riparia*					Y							
225	Scaly Thrush	*Zoothera dauma*					Y							
226	Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler	*Pnoepyga albiventer*										Y		
227	Scarlet Finch	*Haematospiza sipahi*						Y						
228	Scarlet Minivet	*Pericrocotus flammeus*		Y			Y							
229	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	*Dicaeum cruentatum*		Y										
230	Short-billed Minivet	*Pericrocotus brevirostris*							Y			Y		
231	Silver-eared Mesia	*Leiothrix argentauris*						Y					Y	
232	Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler	*Pomatorhinus superciliaris*						Y			Y			
233	Small Niltava	*Niltava macgrigoriae*									Y			
234	Snow Pigeon	*Columba leuconota*								Y				
235	Spangled (aka Hair-crested) Drongo	*Dicrurus hottentottus*					Y							
236	Spotted Dove	*Streptopelia chinensis*	Y	Y										Y
237	Spotted Laughingthrush	*Garrulax ocellatus*						Y		Y		Y		
238	Spotted Owlet	*Athene brama*					Y							
239	Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler	*Pomatorhinus ruficollis*						Y	Y		Y	Y		
240	Streaked Spiderhunter	*Arachnothera magna*						Y					Y	
241	Streak-throated Barwing	*Sibia waldeni*						Y						
242	Striated Bulbul	*Pycnonotus striatus*						Y			Y	Y	Y	
243	Striated Grassbird	*Megalurus palustris*	Y		Y									
244	Striated Heron	*Butorides striata*					Y							
245	Striated Laughingthrush	*Grammatoptila striata*						Y						
246	Striated Yuhina	*Yuhina castaniceps*											Y	
247	Stripe-throated Yuhina	*Yuhina gularis*						Y	Y		Y	Y		
248	Sultan Tit	*Melanochlora sultanea*					Y						Y	
249	Taiga Flycatcher	*Ficedula albicilla*					Y							
250	Tickell's Leaf Warbler	*Phylloscopus affinis*					Y		Y					
251	Upland Buzzard	*Buteo hemilasius*								Y				
252	Vernal Hanging Parrot	*Loriculus vernalis*					Y							
253	Wallcreeper	*Tichodroma muraria*							Y			Y		
254	Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	*Treron sphenurus*					Y							
255	Whiskered Yuhina	*Yuhina flavicollis*						Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	
256	White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	
257	White-browed Bush Robin	*Tarsiger indicus*						Y						
258	White-browed Rosefinch	*Carpodacus thura*								Y				
259	White-browed Scimitar Babbler	*Pomatorhinus schisticeps*											Y	
260	White-browed Shrike-babbler	*Pteruthius flaviscapis*						Y				Y		

261	White-capped Water Redstart	*Chaimarrornis leucocephalus*						Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
262	White-collared Blackbird	*Turdus albocinctus*								Y	Y	Y		
263	White-crested Laughingthrush	*Garrulax leucolophus*						Y						
264	White-gorgeted Flycatcher	*Anthipes monileger*						Y						
265	White-tailed Nuthatch	*Sitta himalayensis*						Y		Y		Y		
266	White-throated Bulbul	*Alophoixus flaveolus*						Y						
267	White-throated Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*								Y				
268	White-throated Kingfisher	*Halcyon smyrnensis*	Y				Y							
269	White-throated Laughingthrush	*Garrulax albogularis*										Y		
270	White-throated Redstart	*Adelura schisticeps*								Y				
271	White-winged Grosbeak	*Mycerobas carnipes*								Y				
272	White-winged Wood Duck	*Asarcornis scutulata*					Y							
273	Winter Wren	*Troglodytes hiemalis*								Y				
274	Wreathed Hornbill	*Rhyticeros undulatus*					Y						Y	
275	Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*			Y				Y					
276	Yellow-bellied Fantail	*Chelidorhynx hypoxanthus*						Y		Y				
277	Yellow-bellied Warbler	*Abroscopus superciliaris*											Y	
278	Yellow-billed Blue Magpie	*Urocissa flavirostris*								Y		Y		
279	Yellow-browed Tit	*Sylviparus modestus*						Y	Y				Y	
280	Yellow-browed Warbler	*Abrornis inornatus*		Y			Y	Y						
281	Yellow-cheeked Tit	*Machlolophus spilonotus*						Y	Y					
282	Yellow-footed Green Pigeon	*Treron phoenicopterus*		Y										
283	Yellow-throated Fulvetta	*Schoeniparus cinereus*						Y						
284	Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*		Y										
285	Yellow-vented Warbler	*Phylloscopus cantator*		Y										

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We wish all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2023

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